

What Is Claimed Is:

1. In a motor vehicle frame assembly having a tubular frame member for absorbing energy in the event of a collision and a structural member disposed in the tubular frame member, the structural member comprising:

a generally tubular body having an outer perimeter complimentary to an inner perimeter of said tubular frame member, said tubular body being disposed within said tubular frame member to locally increase the movement of inertia; and

at least one rib disposed in said tubular body;

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2. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said frame assembly includes a joint and said structural member is located in said tubular main frame at said joint.

3. The motor vehicle of Claim 2, wherein said joint is defined by said tubular frame member as a second frame member.

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4. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said structural member is constructed of aluminum.

5. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said structural member is constructed of steel.

6. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said structural member is manufactured by extrusion.

7. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said structural member is manufactured by machining.

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8. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said structural member is fixedly attached to said tubular main frame.

9. The motor vehicle of Claim 8, wherein said structural member is fixedly attached by an interference fit.

10. The motor vehicle of Claim 8, wherein said structural member is fixedly attached by adhesive.

11. The motor vehicle of Claim 8, wherein said structural member is fixedly attached by fasteners.

12. The motor vehicle of Claim 8, wherein said structural member is fixedly attached by external depressions.

13. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said ribs extend the length of said tubular body.

14. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said ribs are orientated generally horizontally.

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15. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said ribs are orientated generally vertically

16. The motor vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said ribs are orientated in an intersecting pattern.

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